

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 ABF-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 AGR-20 EB-11 SCA-01 /188 W

----- 010851

R 291130Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5574

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HI

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 4589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, EAID, CB

SUBJ: NEW KHMER REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

1. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES WILL RECALL, LATE IN 1973

THIS MISSION EXPLORED SEVERAL APPROACHES IN AN EFFORT
TO EXPAND REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS. AS REPORTED

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IN REF A, WE CONCLUDED THAT AN AUGMENTED REFUGEE

RESETTLEMENT EFFORT REQUIRED AN ENTIRELY NEW ORGANIZATION ON THE KHMER SIDE, AND ONE WITH AN INDEPENDENT AND AUTONOMOUS CHARACTER.

2. SINCE THAT TIME AS HAS BEEN REPORTED BRIEFLY IN THE REFERENCES CITED AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE KHMER GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERS TO CREATE AND BRING INTO BEING THAT ORGANIZATION. AS REPORTED IN REF A, ON DECEMBER 8 THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED ORGANIZATION WAS SPELLED OUT IN A LETTER FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO MARSHAL LON NOL. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND KHMER POLITICAL CIRCLES THE CONCEPT WAS FAVORABLY ACCEPTED AND THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH THE U.S. MISSION TO DRAFT THE STATUTE FOR THE FOUNDATION. THAT COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF YOUNGER KHMER PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP WITH BUSINESS EXPERIENCE WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED ON JANUARY 2. ON JANUARY 14TH THE STATUTES FOR THE ORGANIZATION WERE DRAFTED AND PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT AND ON JANUARY 23, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ACCEPTED THEM. ON FEBRUARY 4, COPIES OF THE STATUTE WERE DEPOSITED AND THE NEXT DAY REGISTERED WITH THE SUPREME COURT AND ON FEBRUARY 20 MARSHAL LON NOL AS PRESIDENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC SIGNED THE KRET RECOGNIZING THE FOUNDATION AS A PUBLIC UTILITY ASSOCIATION. ON THAT DATE THE FOUNDATION WAS OFFICIALLY CONSTITUTED. THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION IS THE RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION. MR. KHOUN CHHIEK, CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE FOUNDATION. MR. KHOUN CHHIEK IS A CAPABLE AND IN HIS OWN WAY DYNAMIC KHMER EXECUTIVE WHO RESCUED THE SUGAR COMPANY, SONASUCRE, FROM OBLIVION AND MADE IT INTO A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE. HE ALSO HAS THE REPUTATION OF HONESTY.

3. SINCE THEN THE MISSION AND THE FOUNDATION HAVE BEEN WORKING TO GET IT ESTABLISHED, DRAW THE WORK PROGRAM FOR ITS FIRST YEAR AND GET ITS INITIAL PROJECTS INTO CONSTRUCTION. ON MARCH 9 WE GAVE APPROVAL TO THE

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PLANS FOR THE BALANCE OF FY 74. THESE INCLUDE:

(A) ESTABLISH HEADQUARTERS AND STAFF

(B) RESETTLEMENT OF 5,000 FAMILIES WITHIN THE SHORT TIMEFRAME OF THIS YEAR'S REMAINING DRY SEASON.

(C) BEGIN STUDIES AND PLANS FOR RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS

TO BE STARTED NEXT DRY SEASON.

4. ON MARCH 23 A LOCAL CURRENCY PROJECT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED PROVIDING ONE BILLION RIELS IN COUNTERPART FUNDS FOR THE FOUNDATION'S PROGRAMS. ON MARCH 27, PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET, KHMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN PHNOM PENH AND U.S. MISSION OFFICERS ATTENDED THE DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE FIRST PROJECT. THIS RE-ESTABLISHES THE VILLAGE OF CHOM CHAU, APPROXIMATELY TWO KILOMETERS NORTH OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT, WHICH HAD BEEN DESTROYED A LITTLE UNDER TWO MONTHS AGO BY COMMUNIST FORCES ATTACKING PHNOM PENH.

5. DEPENDING ON SECURITY CONDITIONS THE TENTATIVE AREAS SELECTED FOR INITIAL PHASES OF RDF'S RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) CHOM CHAU DISTRICT (APPROXIMATELY TWO KILOMETERS NORTH/NORTHWEST OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT). FOUR TO FIVE VILLAGES WITH 500 ORIGINAL FAMILIES PLUS 300 NEW FAMILIES FOR AN APPROXIMATE TOTAL OF 5,000 PEOPLE.

(B) ALONG ROUTE 4 IN KOMPONG SPEU PROVINCE. RESETTLEMENT OF 1,200 FAMILIES, APPROXIMATELY 7 TO 8 THOUSAND PEOPLE.

(C) SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH IN THE PREK THNOT RIVER AREA AN INITIAL SETTLEMENT, ESTIMATE FOR 1,200 FAMILIES, OR 7 TO 8 THOUSAND PEOPLE.

(D) THE FOUNDATION IS ALSO STUDYING SUPPORTING RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS IN COOPERATION WITH THE VOLAGS IN REGION 4

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 4589

INCLUDING KOMPONG THOM, SIEM REAP AND OUDON MEAN CHEY.
ASSISTANCE WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTAL, PRIMARILY IN PROVIDING
LARGE SCALE ENGINEERING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES
PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN THESE AREAS TOTAL APPROXIMATELY
7 TO 8 THOUSAND FAMILIES, OR 40 TO 50 THOUSAND PEOPLE.

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6. WE EXPECT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO THE FOUNDATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SHORTLY WE
HOPE TO SIGN A DOLLAR PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR \$1.8
MILLION TO SECURE NECESSARY IMPORTED COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES AND IN ADDITION TO THE LOCAL CURRENCY PROJECT
AGREEMENT FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF \$2.7 MILLION. WE THUS EXPECT
THE TOTAL U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE NEW FOUNDATION TO BE
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$4.5 MILLION FROM THIS YEAR'S FUNDS.
WE ALSO HOPE THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOUNDATION BY THE GKR, PRIVATE
DONORS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER FOREIGN
GOVERNMENTS HAVING A HUMANITARIAN CONCERN WITH THE
PLIGHT OF THE REFUGEES IN CAMBODIA. WE HOPE PARTICULARLY
TO SEE THE JAPANESE AND PERHAPS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS
PROVIDE TO THE FOUNDATION FROM THE STERILIZED
COUNTERPART ACCRUING FROM THEIR PRIOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND. AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
DIRECT-HIRE STAFF IS NOW ON BOARD TO ASSIST HE FOUNDATION.

THIS CONSISTS OF THE SENIOR REFUGEE ADVISOR,
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, AGRICULTURIST, HEALTH
ADMINISTRATOR AND A JUNIOR REFUGEE ADVISOR. THE GOALS
FOR THE FIRST YEAR'S PROGRAM ARE AMBITIOUS. HOWEVER
THE NEED IS GREAT AND IT IS OUR VIEW THAT TARGETS
SHOULD BE SET WHICH WILL TEST THE OUTER
LIMITS OF KHMER CAPABILITY TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE
PRESENTED TO THEIR SOCIETY BY THE REFUGEE SITUATION.
WE HOPE THAT BY SO DOING THE TALENTS AND CAPABILITIES
OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF KHMER LEADERS CAN BE
ENERGIZED. WE ALSO HOPE THAT IN PURSUING ACCOMPLISHMENT
ORIENTED OBJECTIVES, AND IN OBTAINING SOME SUCCESS
IN THEIR ACHIEVEMENT THAT THIS YOUNGER GENERATION WILL
BE MOVED AWAY FROM DISENCHANTMENT AND DISAFFECTION
WITH THEIR SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT AND BECOME INSTEAD
ITS LEADERS OF TOMORROW.
ENDERS

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